

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02628 051048Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7268

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PR PDIP PINS LA US

SUBJECT: LPDR ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO CENSOR FOREIGN PRESS BULLETINS

1. NOVEMBER 5 WE RECEIVED CIRCULAR NOTE DATED NOVEMBER 4 TO
ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND UN MISSION IN VIENTIANE ANNOUNCING
NEW REGULATIONS FOR FOREIGN PRESS AGENCIES AND SERVICES IN
LAOS ALONG THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LINES:

A. FOREIGN PRESS AGENCIES AND SERVICES MUST REQUEST
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH NEWS BULLETINS FROM PRESS
DEPT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. THEY MUST LIST NAME,
PURPOSE, FORMAT, LOCATION OF OFFICE AND PRINTING
PLANT, CIRCULATION AND DAYS OF PUBLICATION.

B. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALL PRESS
BULLETINS ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY
PRESS DEPT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. EVERY CHANGE OF
NAME AND PURPOSE REQUIRES A NEW PUBLICATION
PERMIT.

C. PRESS SERVICES AND AGENCIES MUST DEPOSIT SIX
HOURS BEFORE DISTRIBUTION SIX COPIES OF THE
INFORMATION BULLETIN WITH THE PRESS DEPT OF
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SIX OTHER COPIES WITH
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CITING CIRCULATION AND
DATE.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02628 051048Z

D. CONTENTS OF BULLETIN MUST NOT INFRINGE UPON

THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LINES OF LPDR ESPEC-
IALLY IN REGARD TO THE POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP IT
FOLLOWS IN REGARD TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

E. VARIOUS DOCUMENTS, NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS, MOVIE FILMS,
RECORDS, ETC. IN LAO OR FOREIGN LANGUAGES CAN
ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER AGREEMENT IS GRANTED
BY PRESS DEPT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY.

F. PHOTO EXHIBITIONS OR OTHER EXHIBITIONS WHICH DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS OR UN MISSION ORGANIZE OUTSIDE THEIR OWN
BUILDINGS ON SPECIAL DAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR
AUTHORIZATION BY PRESS DEPT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY.
THE EXHIBITION SHOULD NOT INCLUDE SUBJECTS WHICH
MIGHT HARM THE POLICIES OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH THE
LAO GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS IN REGARD TO THE VARIOUS
FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE FOREGOING ADDS UP TO IMPOSITION OF PRIOR CENSOR-
SHIP ON FOREIGN EMBASSIES PRESS BULLETINS INCLUDING OUR
OWN USIS DAILY BULLETIN.

3. WE ARE THINKING OF FEELING OUR WAY BY COMPLYING WITH
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SEEING WHETHER OR
NOT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE PUBLISHING USIS BULLETIN.
BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE THAT
NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR USIA HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO OUR
TRYING OUT THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
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